

EDISON

THOMAS EDISON WAS AN INVENTOR. HE WAS BORN FEB. 11, 1847 IN MILAN,

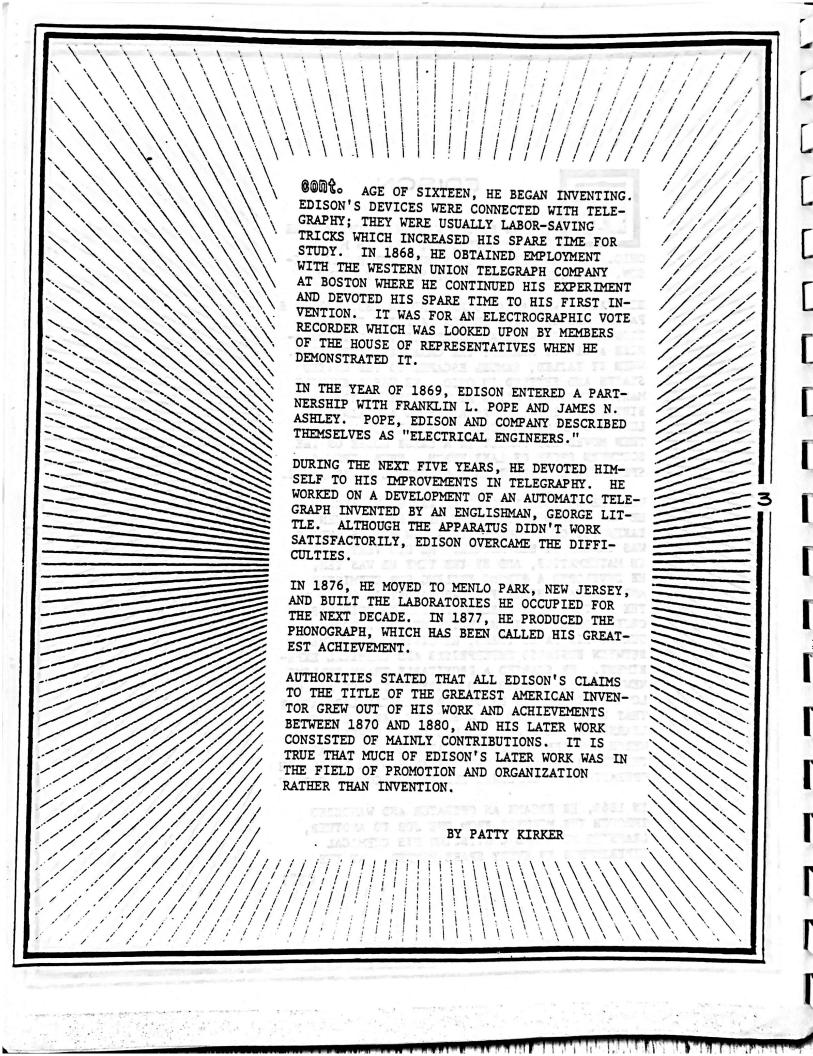
OHIO. HE WAS THE SON OF SAMUEL AND NANCY EDI-SON, ALSO THEIR SEVENTH AND YOUNGEST CHILD.

HIS FATHER WAS A CANADIAN, AND IN 1837, EDISON'S FATHER WAS INVOLVED IN THE CANADIAN INSURRECTION IN WHICH WILLIAM MACKENZIE TRIED TO ORGANIZE A REVOLT AGAINST THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. WHEN IT FAILED, SAMUEL ESCAPED TO THE UNITED STATES AND SETTLED IN OHIO. HE WAS A SHINGLE MANUFACTURER IN MILAN AT THE TIME OF EDISON'S BIRTH. IN 1854, HE ESTABLISHED A GRAIN AND LUMBER COMPANY IN PORT HURON, MICHIGAN. HE THEN MOVED HIS FAMILY IN A LARGE HOUSE ON THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF LAKE HURON. THUS, THOMAS SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD IN A BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT.

WHEN HE STARTED SCHOOL, HE WAS SLOW, THOUGH HE WAS A GOOD READER AT HOME. HE WAS THEN TAKEN OUT OF SCHOOL AFTER A FEW MONTHS AND HE WAS TAUGHT BY HIS MOTHER. HE DID VERY WELL IN MATHEMATICS, AND BY THE TIME HE WAS TEN, HE DEVELOPED A STRONG FEELING FOR CHEMISTRY AND HAD MADE HIMSELF A LABORATORY IN WHICH ALL THE BOTTLES WERE LABLED "POISON." THIS WAS AN OBJECT OF ADMIRATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. DURING HIS EARLY YEARS, HE DIVIDED HIS TIME BETWEEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND CHEMICAL EXPE-HE STARTED A PROFITABLE TRADE SELLING RIMENT. NEWSPAPERS, TOBACCO AND CANDY ON TRAINS AND ON LONG TRAIN RIDES, HE USED A CHEMICAL LABORATORY THAT WAS INSTALLED IN A BAGGAGE CAR. EDISON LEARNED A GREAT DEAL IN HIS EARLY EXPERIENCES WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO HIS LATER SUCCESS. AT THE TRAIN STOPS, HE MADE FRIENDS WITH TELEGRAPH OPERATORS AND EXPLORED ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATION.

IN 1863, HE BECAME AN OPERATOR AND WANDERED THROUGH THE MIDWEST FROM ONE JOB TO ANOTHER, LEARNING MUCH AND CONTINUING HIS CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS IN EVERY SPARE MOMENT. AT THE

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COMPUTERS

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR COMPUTERS IN THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL DIS-

TRICT IS THE APPLE COMPUTER. TWO YEARS AGO, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DECIDED TO BUY 30 NEW APPLE II PLUS'S FOR THE MATH DEPARTMENT, SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. EVER SINCE THEN, THE COMPUTERS HAVE BEEN A MAJOR HELP TO STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND LOCAL RESIDENTS. IN THE HIGH SCHOOL, THE MATH DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO TEACH STUDENTS THE WAY OF THE COMPUTER AND ITS BASIC LANGUAGE. THE STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO LEARN HOW TO PROGRAM IN BASIC AND LEARN HOW TO GENERATE THEIR OWN PROGRAMS. FOR THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, THE TEACHERS, LIKE MR. BEHAN AND MR. COPPA, ARE TEACHING THE STUDENTS CHEMISTRY, WHICH MOST OF THE TIME, THE STUDENTS USE THE APPLE TO CONVERT FORMULAS AND ALSO HELP THEIR CHEMISTRY BECOME BETTER. IN THE SPECIAL EDU-CATION DEPARTMENT, MR. ALLARD USES THE APPLE TO TEACH STUDENTS THEIR MATH SKILLS AND HOW THEY CAN IMPROVE THEM. EVEN THE OFFICE OF THE EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL IS USING A COMPUTER. WITH THE NEW ATTENDANCE PROGRAM, CALLED "ATTENDANCE MADE EASY" BY DAN RUBEL, IT WILL KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL AND WILL DO AN UP-TO-DATE RECORD OF THE STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE. NOW TEACHERS WON'T HAVE TO LOOK UP IN THE RECORD BOOKS AND COUNT HOW MANY TIMES THE STUDENT HAS BEEN ABSENT, BECAUSE IT WILL ALL BE DONE FOR THEM, JUST WITH THE PUSH OF SOME BUTTONS.

THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOLS ARE NOT THE ONLY PEOPLE GETTING INTO THE SWING OF THE APPLE. THE TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH AND LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE ALSO TAKING PART IN THE APPLE. THEY ARE STARTING TO TAKE NIGHT CLASSES TO LEARN ALL ABOUT THE COMPUTERS, SO THAT THEY CAN KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES. IF THEY DON'T LEARN NOW ABOUT COMPUTERS, THEY WILL NEVER LEARN AND WILL BE LOST IN THE WORLD OF COMPUTERS. JUST THINK, IN THE YEAR 2001, HALF OF THE WORLD WILL BE RUN BY COMPUTERS.

BY CHRIS CALABRO

EXPENSES

HOW MUCH MONEY TO KEEP ONE PERSON ALIVE IS ALWAYS A DIFFICULT QUES-

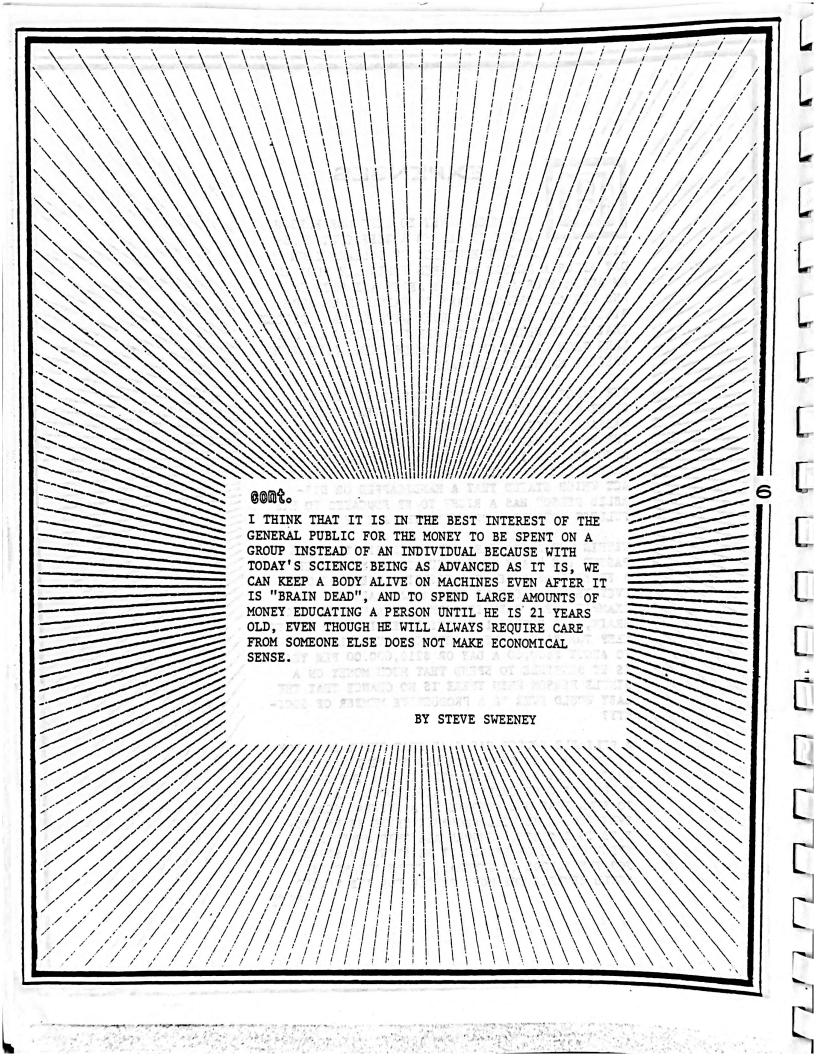
TION. IT CAN COST HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS EACH DAY AFTER A PERSON HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT OR AFTER AGE SETS IN AND CERTAIN ORGANS START TO FAIL. EVEN FROM BIRTH, SOME BABIES ARE BORN WITH SO MANY DEFECTS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO SPEND HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS EACH DAY IN ORDER TO KEEP THEM ALIVE WITH SPECIAL MACHINES AND CARE.

THE LARGEST PART OF THE AMERICAN TAX DOLLAR IS SPENT ON EDUCATION. IN SOME STATES, SUCH AS MASSACHUSETTS, THE AMOUNT WAS SO GREAT THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER AND HAD TAX REVOLTS. IN 1975, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PASSED THE "EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN" ACT WHICH STATED THAT A HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED PERSON HAS A RIGHT TO BE EDUCATED TO HIS FULLEST POTENTIAL OR UNTIL THE AGE OF 21.

WITHIN THE LAST YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PASSED THE "BABY DOE" REGULATION, MAKING IT A FEDERAL OFFENSE IF A HOSPITAL DOES NOT DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO KEEP A BABY ALIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A BABY IS BORN WITH A NON-FUNCTIONAL BRAIN, THE HOSPITAL IS STILL REQUIRED TO TRY TO KEEP THE BABY ALIVE. THIS COST USUALLY COMES TO ABOUT \$600.00 A DAY OR \$219,000.00 PER YEAR. IS IT SENSIBLE TO SPEND THAT MUCH MONEY ON A SINGLE PERSON WHEN THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT THE BABY WOULD EVER BE A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY?

A RELIABLE SOURCE HAS SAID THAT THERE IS A BOY LIVING IN EAST GREENWICH WHO IS MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED, AND IT COST THE TAX-PAYERS OF EAST GREENWICH \$100,000.00 LAST YEAR TO SEND THAT ONE STUDENT TO A SPECIAL SCHOOL, EVEN THOUGH HE WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE PRODUCTIVE TO SOCIETY. SHOULD ALL THIS MONEY BE SPENT ON ONE OR SHOULD IT BE SPENT ON SERVICES FOR THE SCHOOL IN GENERAL, WHERE THE MONEY COULD BENEFIT THE MOST PEOPLE FOR ITS VALUE?

OVER



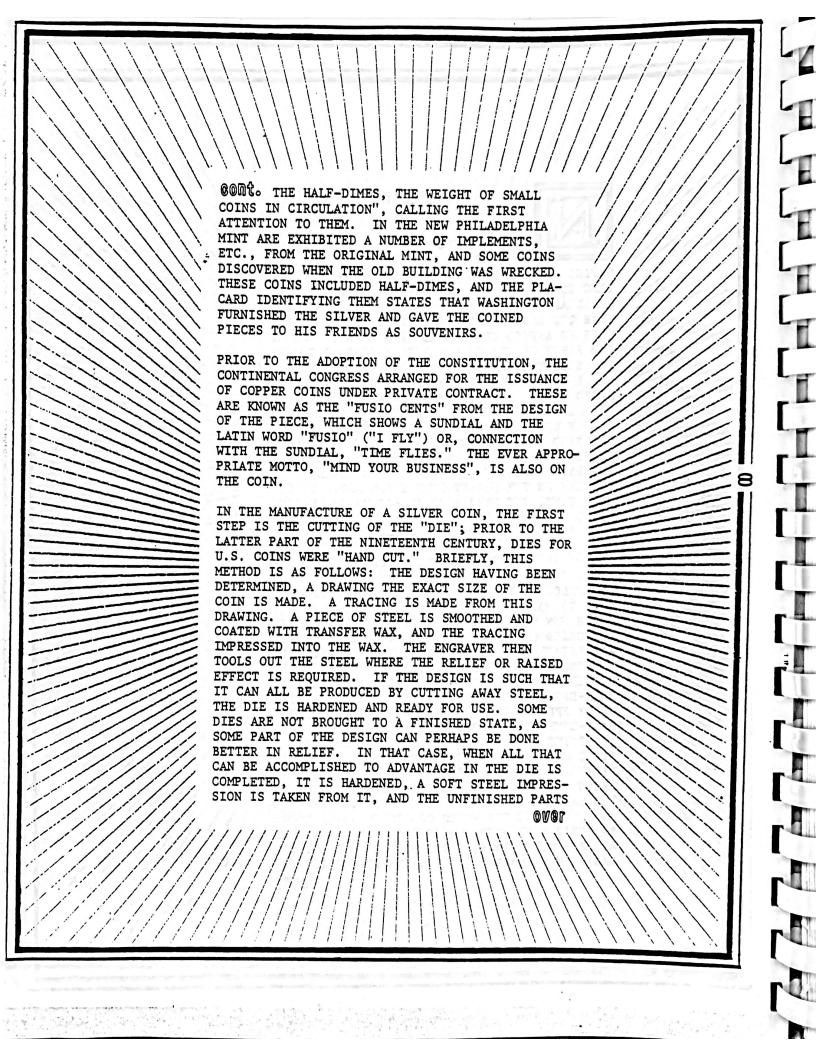
COINS

NUMISMATICS OR COIN COLLECTING IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST HOBBIES, DATING BACK SEVERAL CENTURIES. COIN COLLEC-TING IN AMERICA DID NOT DEVELOP TO ANY EXTENT UNTIL ABOUT 1840, AS OUR PIONEER FOREFATHERS WERE TOO BUSY CARVING A COUNTRY OUT OF WILDER-NESS TO AFFORD THE LUXURY OF A HOBBY. ONE OF THE FIRST GROUPS OF COLLECTORS TO BAND TOGETHER FOR THE STUDY OF NUMISMATICS WAS THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA, ORGA-NIZED ON JANUARY 1, 1858. LACK OF AN ECONOMI-CAL METHOD TO HOUSE A COLLECTION HELD THE NUM-BER OF DEVOTEES OF COIN COLLECTING TO A FEW THOUSAND UNTIL THE WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY (A BIG COMPANY IN COINS) AND OTHER MANUFAC-TURERS PLACED THE LOW-PRICED COIN BOARDS AND FOLDERS ON THE MARKET SOME YEARS AGO. THAT TIME, THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS COLLECTING COINS HAS INCREASED MANYFOLD.

THE PRODUCTION OF COINS

TO COLLECT COINS INTELLIGENTLY, IT IS NECES-SARY TO HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH OUR COINS ARE PRODUCED. THEY ARE MADE IN FACTORIES CALLED "MINTS." THE MINT OF THE U.S. WAS ESTABLISHED AT PHILADELPHIA BY A RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS DATED APRIL 2, 1792. THE ACT ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE COINAGE OF GOLD EAGLE (\$10), HALF-EAGLES AND QUARTER-DOLLAR, DIME (ORIGI-NALLY SPELLED "DISME") AND THE HALF-DISME OR HALF-DIME, THE COPPER CENT AND HALF-CENT. ACCORDING TO THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, THE FIRST COINS STRUCK WERE ONE CENT AND HALF-CENT PIECES IN MARCH OF 1793 ON A HAND-OPERATED MOST NUMISMATIC AUTHORITIES CONSIDER PRESS. THE HALF-DIMES OF 1792 AS THE FIRST U.S. COIN-QUOTING THE WORDS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AS THEIR AUTHORITY, WASHINGTON, IN HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS NOVEMBER 6, 1792, HAVING SAID, "THERE HAS BEEN A SMALL BEGINNING IN THE COINING OF

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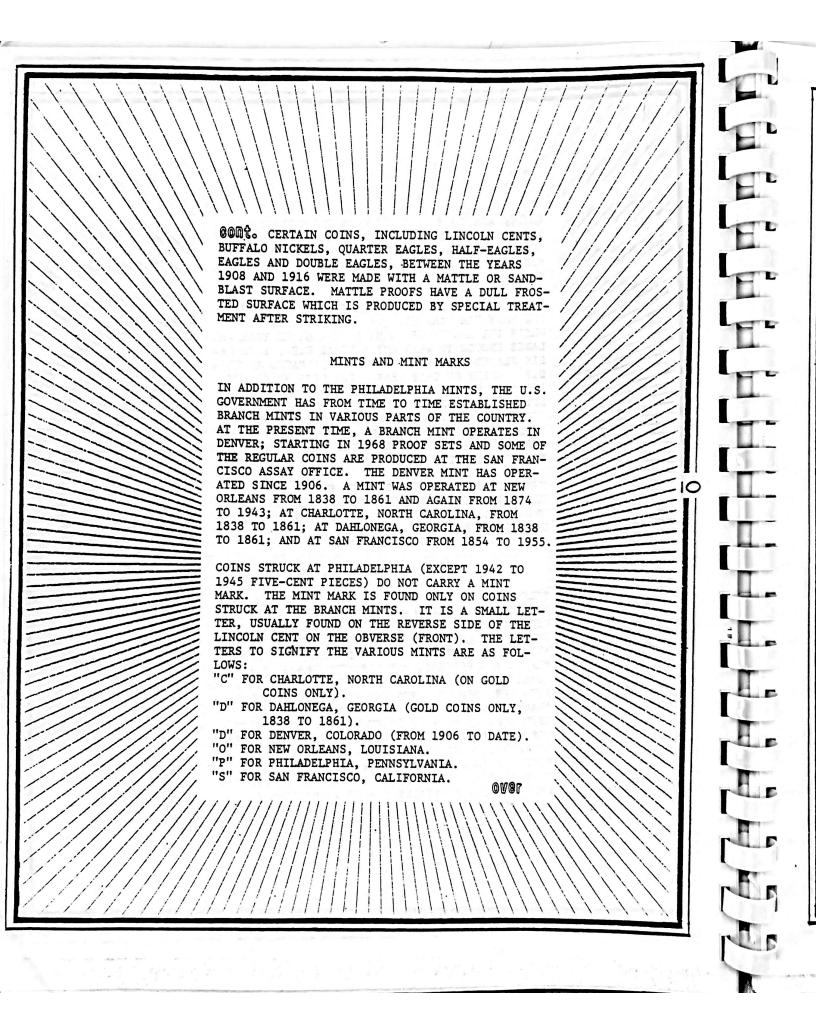
COM? ARE THEN COMPLETED. THE PIECE OF STEEL IS, IN TURN, HARDENED AND, BY A PRESS, DRIVEN INTO ANOTHER PIECE OF SOFT STEEL, THUS MAKING A DIE WHICH WHEN HARDENED IS READY FOR THE MAKING OF COINS.

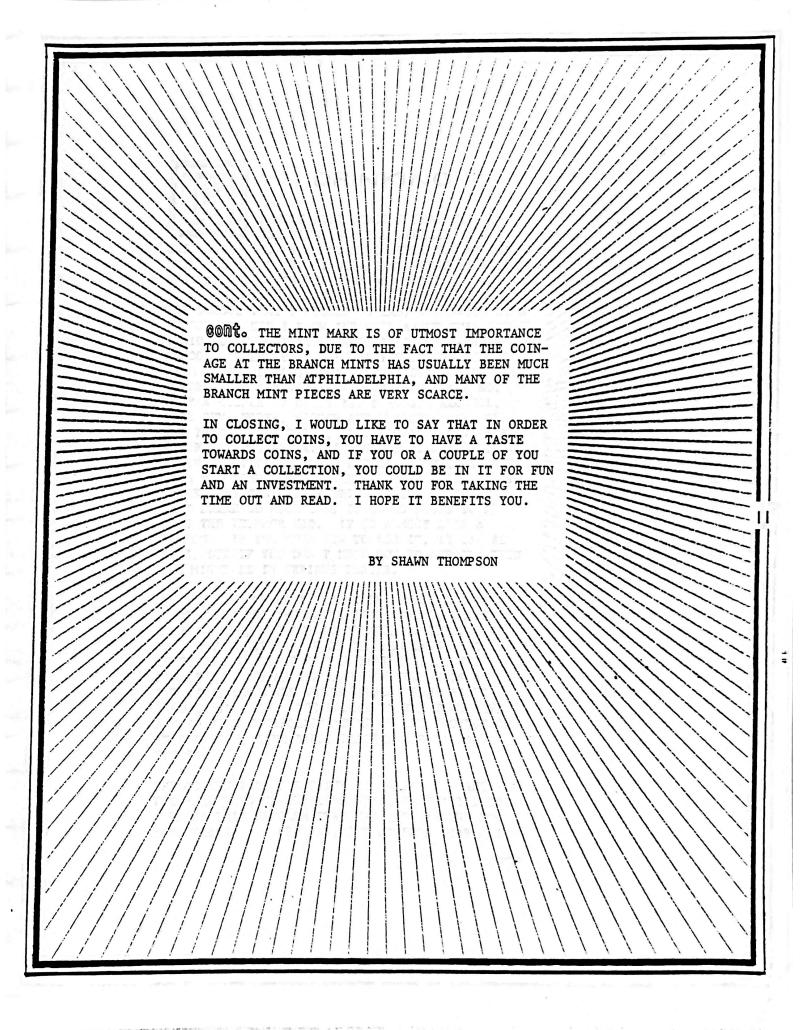
THIS HAND METHOD OF CUTTING DIES ACCOUNTS FOR THE MANY DIE VARIETIES OF EARLY U.S. COINS. WHERE THE AMOUNT OF COINAGE OF A GIVEN YEAR WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO WEAR OUT SEVERAL DIES, EACH NEW DIE PLACED IN THE COINING PRESS CREATED ANOTHER DIE VARIETY OF THAT YEAR. THE DIES BEING CUT BY HAND, NO TWO WERE EXACTLY ALIKE IN EVERY DETAIL, EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THE MAJOR ELEMENTS (HEAD, WREATH, ETC.) WERE SUNK INTO THE DIE BY INDIVIDUAL MASTER PUNCHES. OF THE CENTS DATED 1794, OVER SIXTY DIFFERENT DIE VARIETIES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.

HUNDREDS OF DIES ARE NOW USED BY THE MINTS OF THE U.S. EACH YEAR, BUT THEY ARE ALL MADE FROM ONE MASTER DIE, WHICH IS PRODUCED IN THE FOL-LOWING MANNER:

HOW A PROOF COIN IS MADE

SELECTED DIES ARE INSPECTED FOR PERFECTION AND ARE HIGHLY POLISHED AND CLEANED. THEY ARE AGAIN WIPED CLEAN OR POLISHED AFTER EVERY 15 TO 25 IMPRESSIONS AND ARE REPLACED FREQUENTLY TO AVOID IMPERFECTIONS FROM WORN DIES. COINAGE BLANKS ARE POLISHED AND CLEANED TO ASSURE HIGH QUALITY IN STRIKING. THEY ARE THEN HAND-FED INTO THE COINAGE PRESS ONE AT A TIME, EACH BLANK RECEIVING TWO BLOWS FROM THE DIES TO . BRING UP SHARP, HIGH RELEF DETAILS. THE COIN-AGE OPERATION IS DONE AT SLOW SPEED WITH EXTRA PRESSURE. FINISHED PROOFS ARE INDIVIDUALLY INSPECTED AND ARE HANDED BY GLOVES OR TONGS. THEY ALSO RECEIVE A FINAL INSPECTION BY PACKERS BEFORE BEING SONICALLY SEALED IN SPECIAL PLAS-TIC CASES.





DRINKING

PEOPLE MUST REALIZE THAT TEENAGE DRINKING IS A BIG PROBLEM IN THE

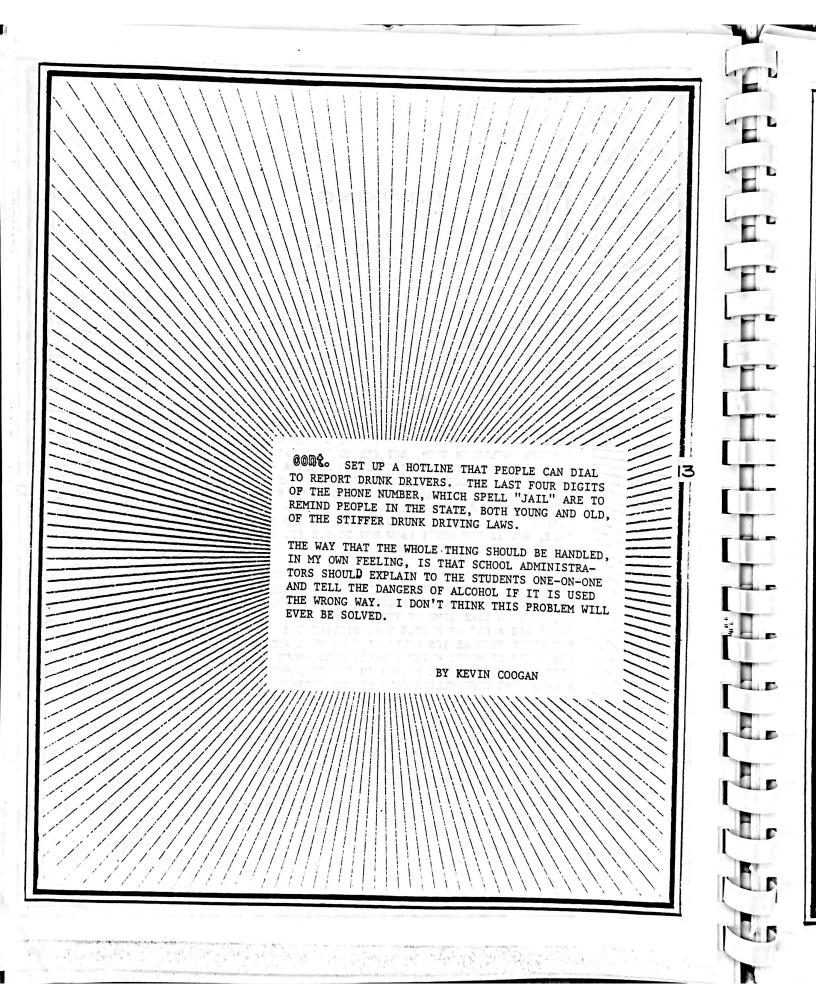
UNITED STATES. I AM GOING TO TELL YOU MY OWN FEELINGS ABOUT IT. I WILL BEGIN HERE AT SCHOOL AND LATER DISCUSS THE TOWN AND STATE.

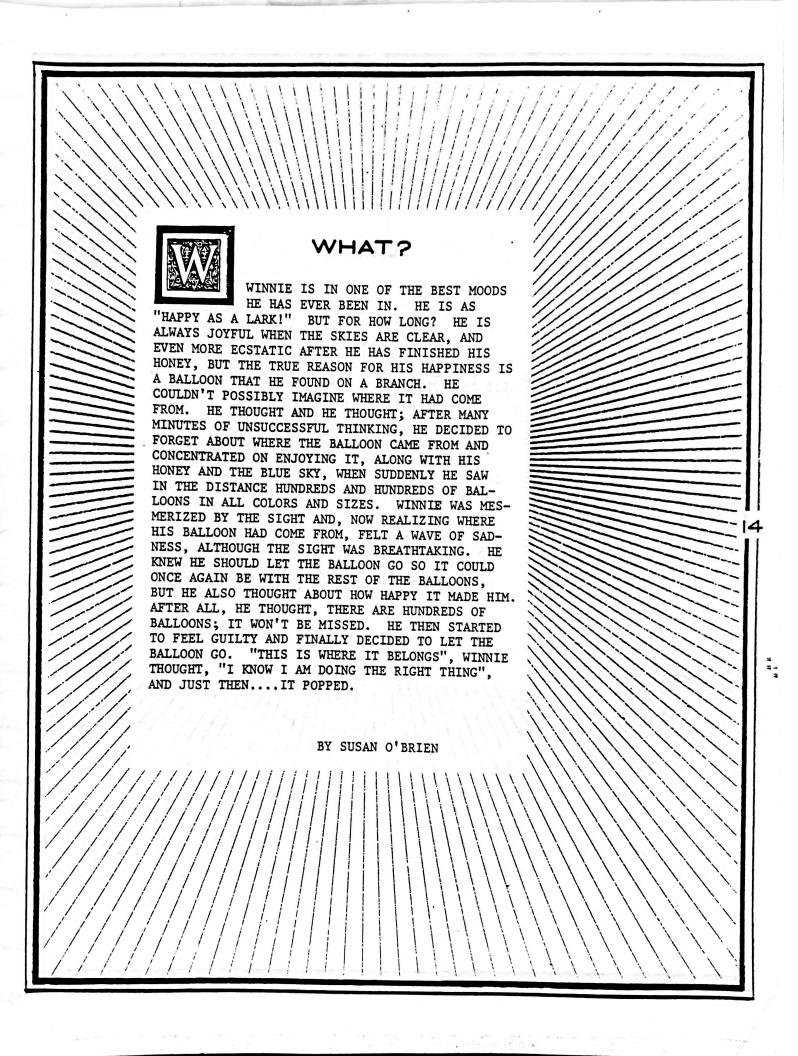
THE SCHOOL THAT I PICKED IS EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL BECAUSE I KNOW THE MOST ABOUT THIS SCHOOL. I DID NOT CHOOSE IT BECAUSE IT IS THE WORST SCHOOL. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY STUDENTS SENT HOME FROM SCHOOL DANCES BECAUSE THEY DRANK TOO MUCH BEFORE THEY ARRIVED. MANY OF THEM DRANK NOT ONLY A COUPLE OF BEERS BUT STRONGER ALCOHOL, LIKE RUM, VODKA, SCOTCH AND WHISKEY. ALL OF THE THINGS THEY DRINK, THEY PROBABLY HAVE SEEN THEIR PARENTS DRINK. I'M NOT SAYING THAT THEIR PARENTS INFLUENCE THEM, BUT SEEING THEM DRINKING IS A BIG TEMPTATION. THE STUDENTS AGED 14 - 19 THINK THEY CAN HANDLE DRINKING BUT THEY CAN'T. THEY DRINK SO MUCH THAT IT COMES CLOSE TO KIL-LING THE TEENAGE KID. IT IS ALMOST LIKE A WEAPON. IF YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT, IT CAN BE SAFE, BUT IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT, THEN YOU MIGHT BE IN SERIOUS DANGER.

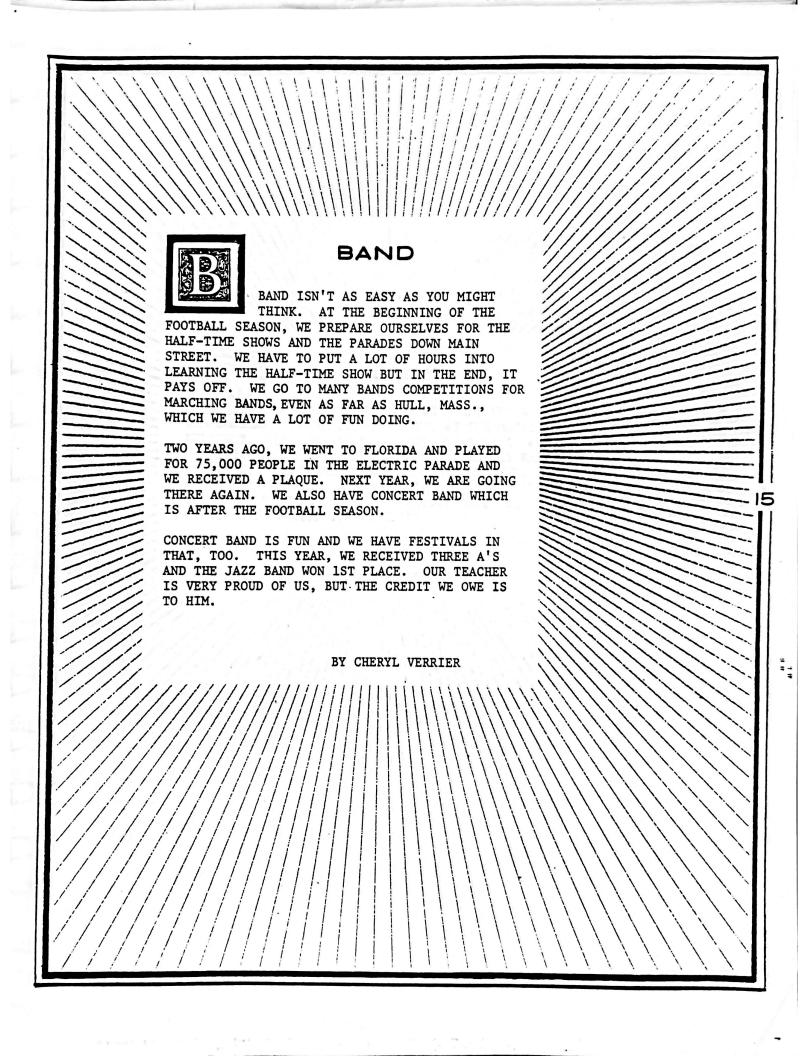
IN THE TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH, THERE ARE PROBLEMS LIKE DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, DRIVING TO ENDANGER, AND PUBLIC DRINKING. THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWN LIKE SOME OF THE NEW LAWS, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT DISLIKE THE PENALTIES SUCH AS TEN HOURS OF TOWN WORK AND THE FINES OF MONEY WHICH USUALLY RUNS ABOUT \$300.00 IN CASH. THE POLICE IN THE TOWN HAVE A HARD TIME CONTROLLING SOME OF THE "GOINGS ON" IN THE TOWN, LIKE BARS, PARTIES AND PACKAGE STORES.

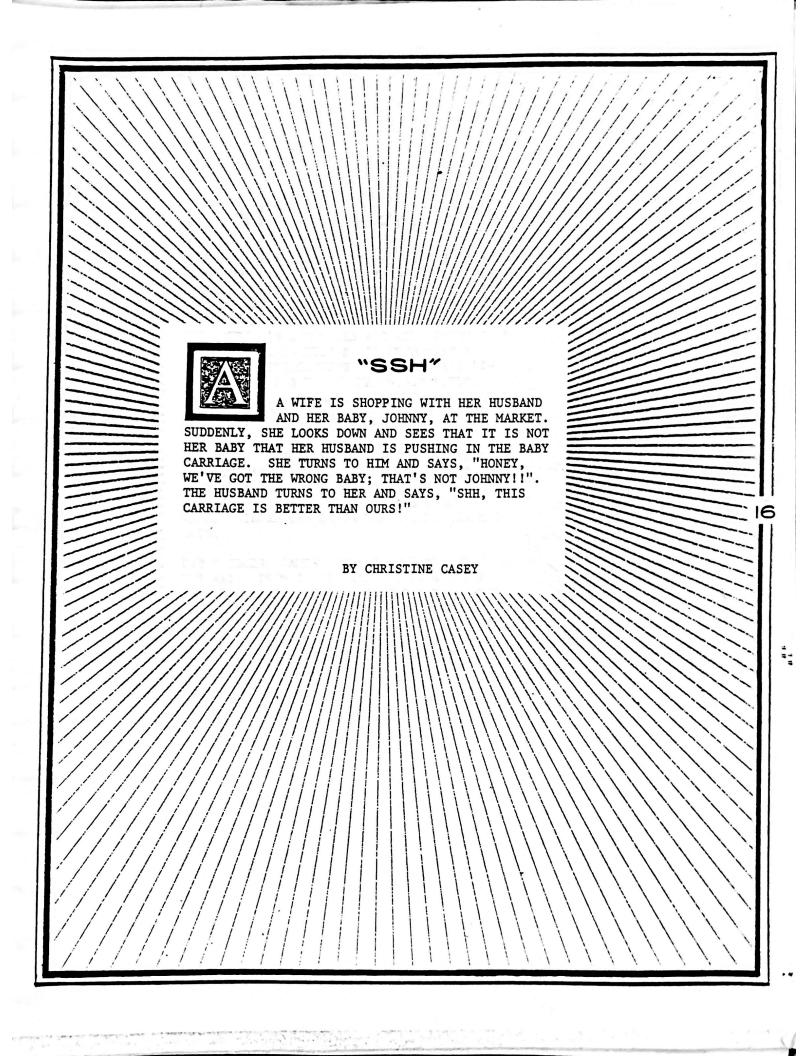
THE GOVERNOR OF OUR STATE IS JOSEPH GARRAHY. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1982 YEAR, HE STARTED TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR MANY YEARS. ON FEBRUARY 2ND OF THIS YEAR, HE

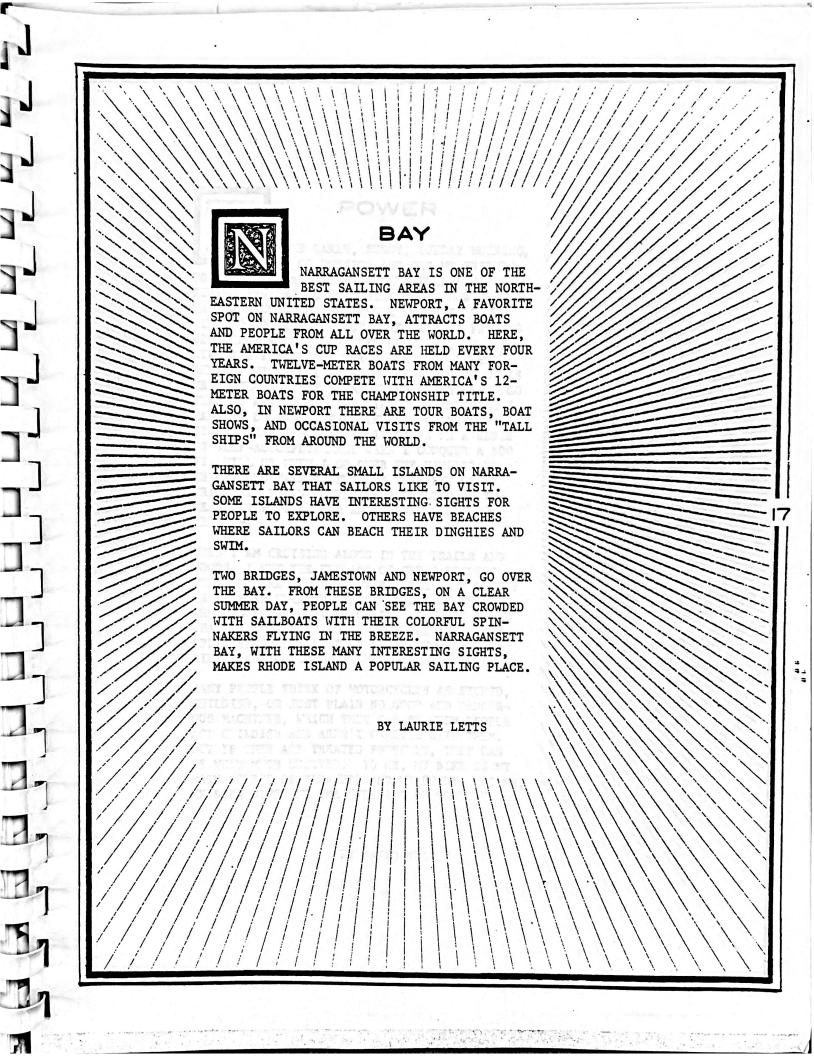
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POWER

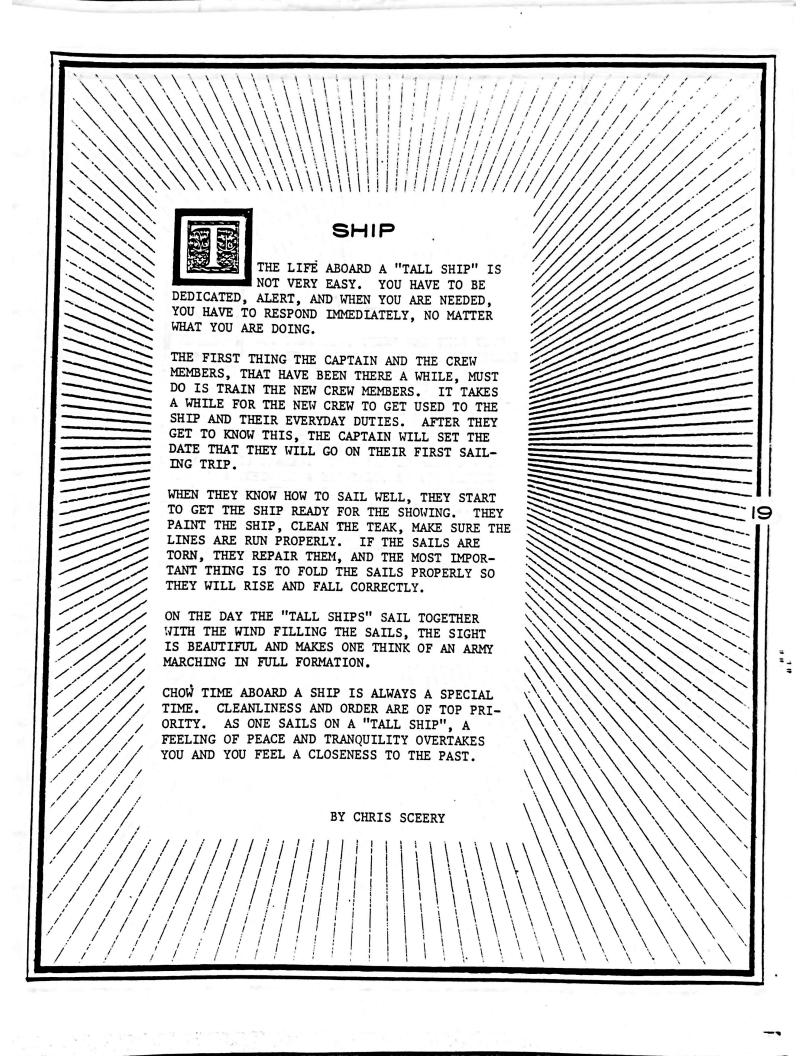
ONE EARLY, SUNNY, SUNDAY MORNING, I GO OUTSIDE AND GET MY FRIENDS

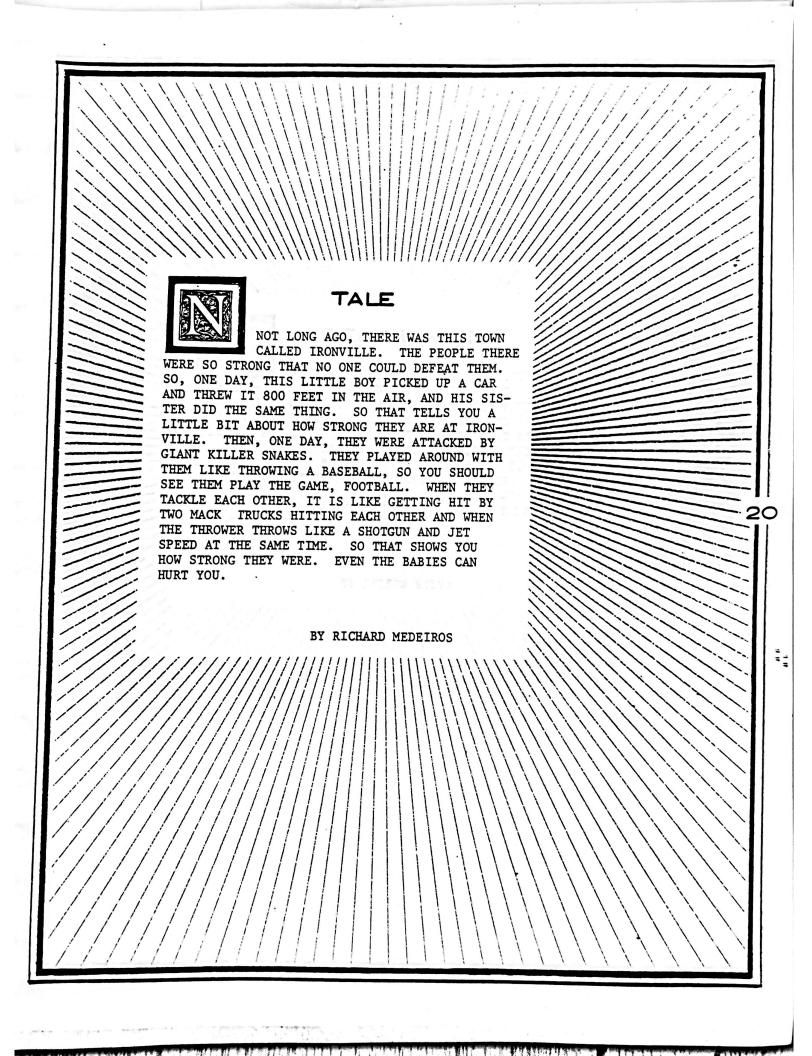
TOGETHER. I ASK THEM IF THEY FEEL LIKE GOING RIDING AND TRYING SOMETHING NEW. NOW THAT I HAVE A NEWER, MORE POWERFUL MOTORCYCLE, I LIKE TO GO RIDING A LOT MORE WITH MY FRIENDS BECAUSE I KNOW I CAN KEEP UP WITH THEM. I LIKE THE FEELING OF THE POWER THAT I FEEL BENEATH ME WHEN I AM GOING RIDING. IT GIVES ME A FEELING THAT I CAN CLIMB ANY HILL OR GO THROUGH ANY HOLE. THE BIKE DOES ANYTHING I MAKE IT DO, AND I FEEL INDESTRUCTIBLY CON-FIDENT WHEN I'M ON IT. IT GIVES ME A SENSE OF SELF-ACCOMPLISHMENT WHEN I CONQUER A 500 FT. HILL OR WHEN I GO OVER THE HANDLEBARS IN MUD AND MAKE IT FURTHER THAN ANY OF MY FRIENDS. RIDING GIVES ME A FEELING OF IM-MEASURABLE PRIDE AND AN UNCANNY SENSE OF FREEDOM.

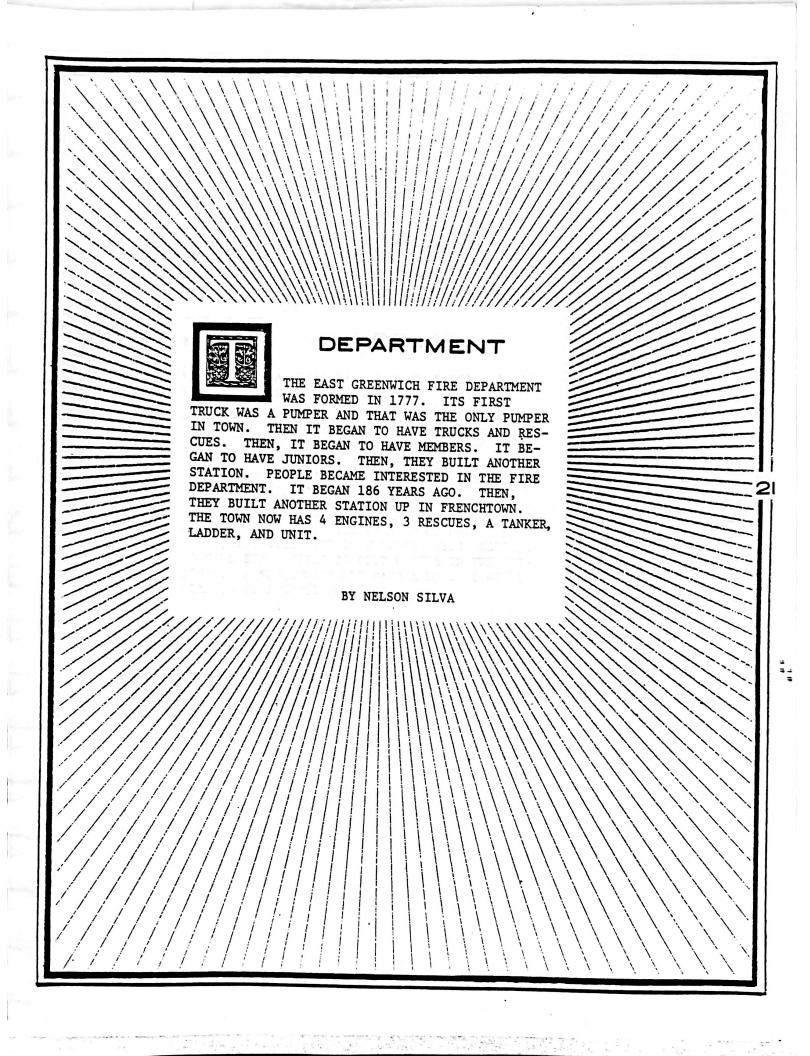
WHEN I AM CRUISING ALONG IN THE TRAILS AND WOODS, I GET THE FEELING OF GREAT RESPECT FOR THE BIKE AND ITS POWER. THE BIKE ITSELF IS LIKE AN UNTAMED "BEAST" AND I AM THE ONE WHO HAS TOTAL CONTROL OF IT. I THINK ABOUT WHAT THIS "BEAST" COULD DO TO ME IF, FOR A SPLIT SECOND, I LOST MY SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND CONCENTRATION.

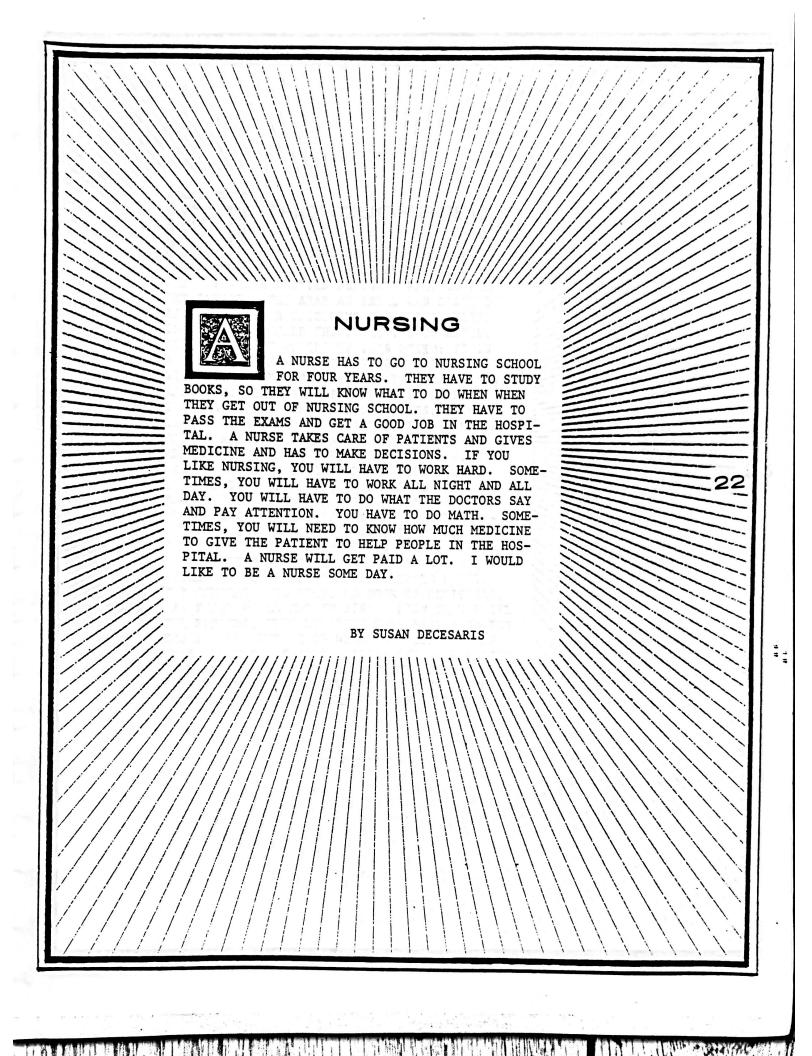
MANY PEOPLE THINK OF MOTORCYCLES AS STUPID, CHILDISH, OR JUST PLAIN NO GOOD AND DANGER-OUS MACHINES, WHICH THEY CAN BE WHEN PEOPLE ACT CHILDISH AND AREN'T CAREFUL WITH THEM. BUT IF THEY ARE TREATED PROPERLY, THEY CAN BE VERY MUCH ENJOYED. TO ME, MY BIKE IS MY MAIN SOURCE OF PLEASURE AND MY HOBBY. TO ME, MY BIKE GIVES ME THE "FEELING OF POWER."

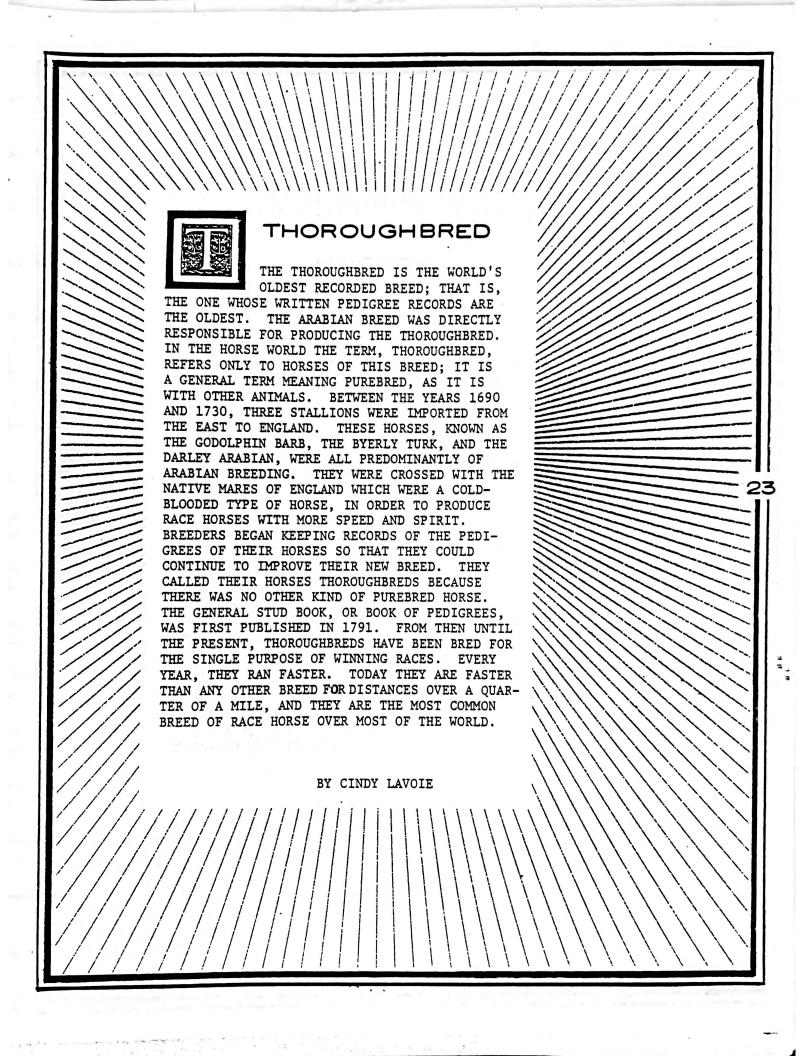
BY DAVID AUSTIN

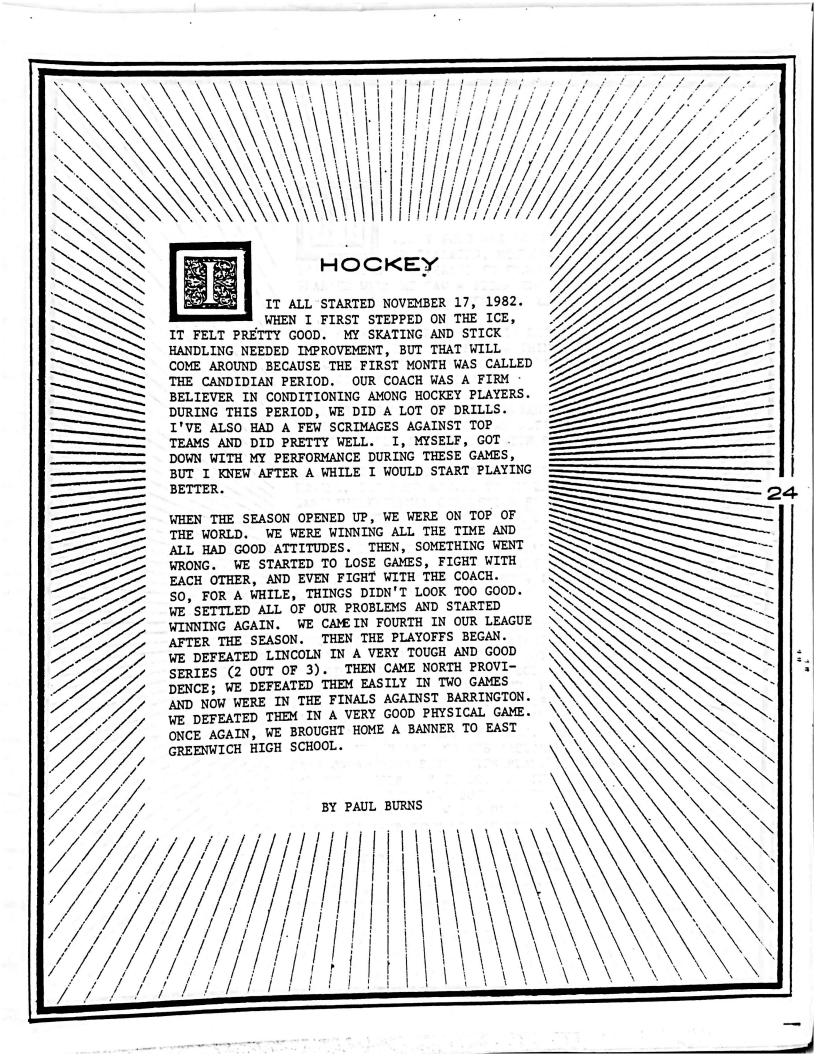


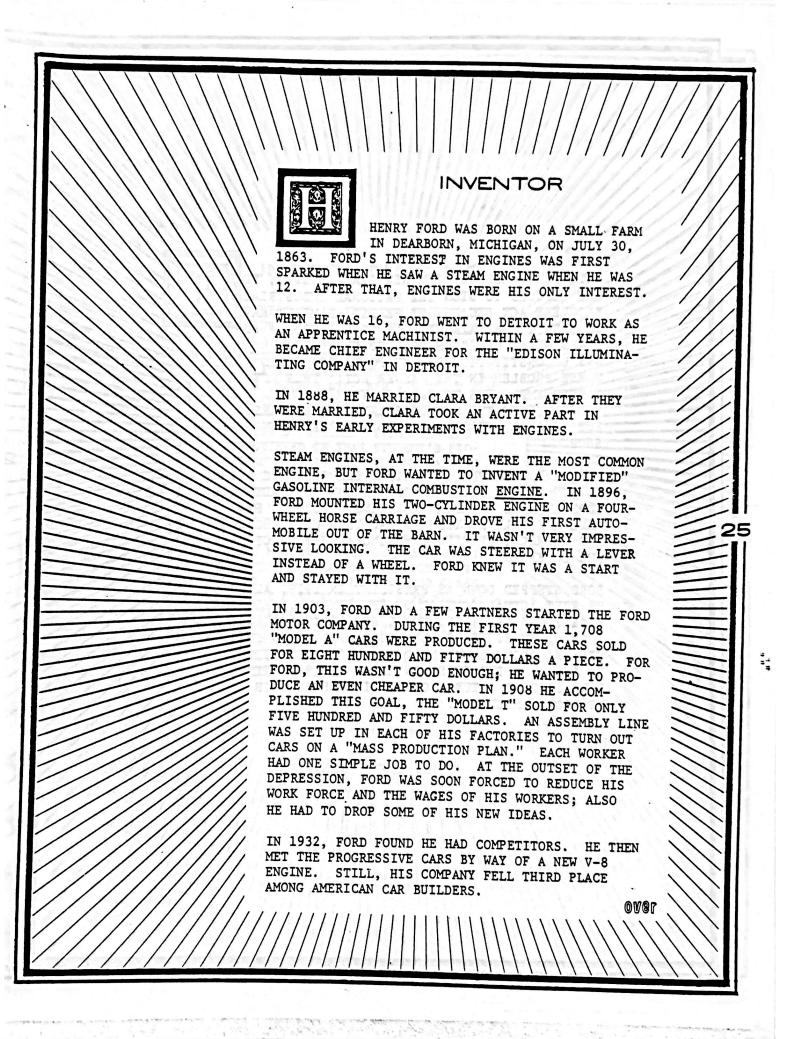


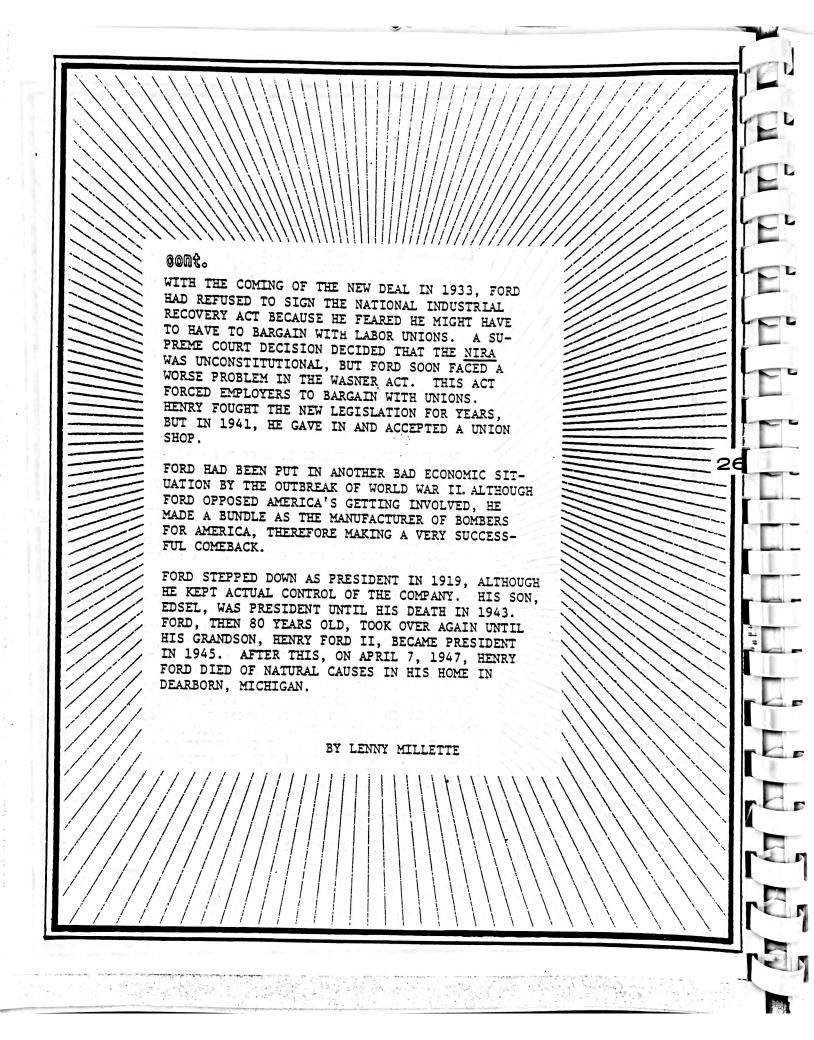


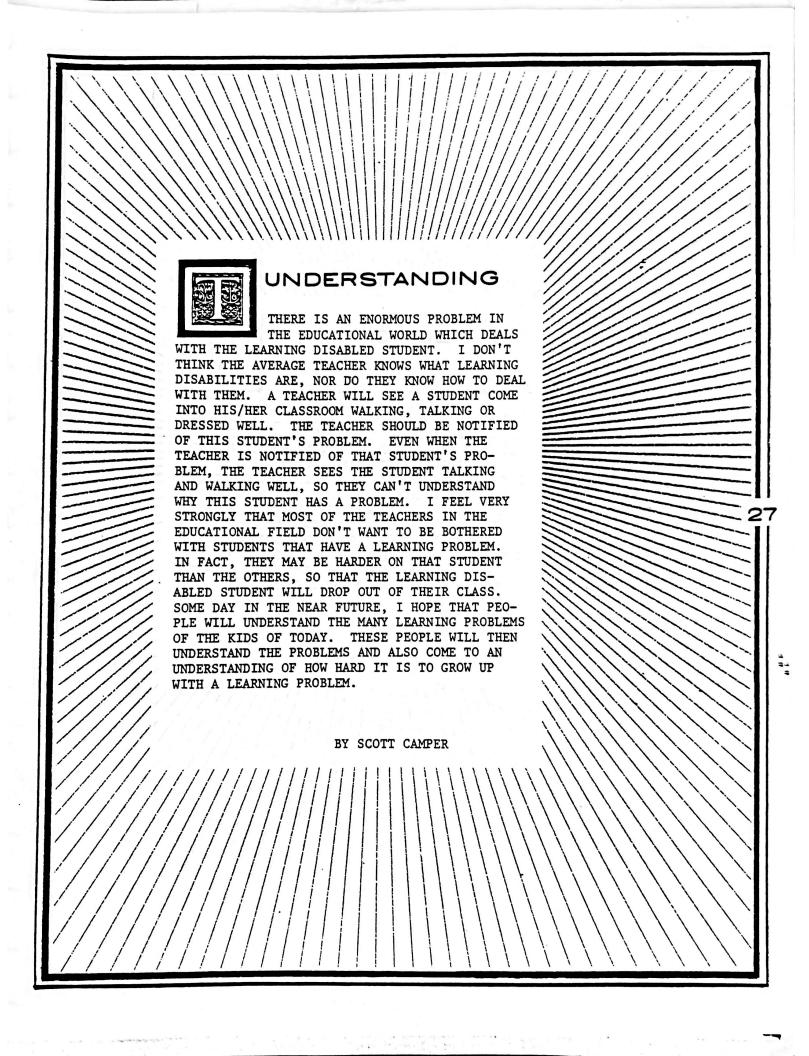


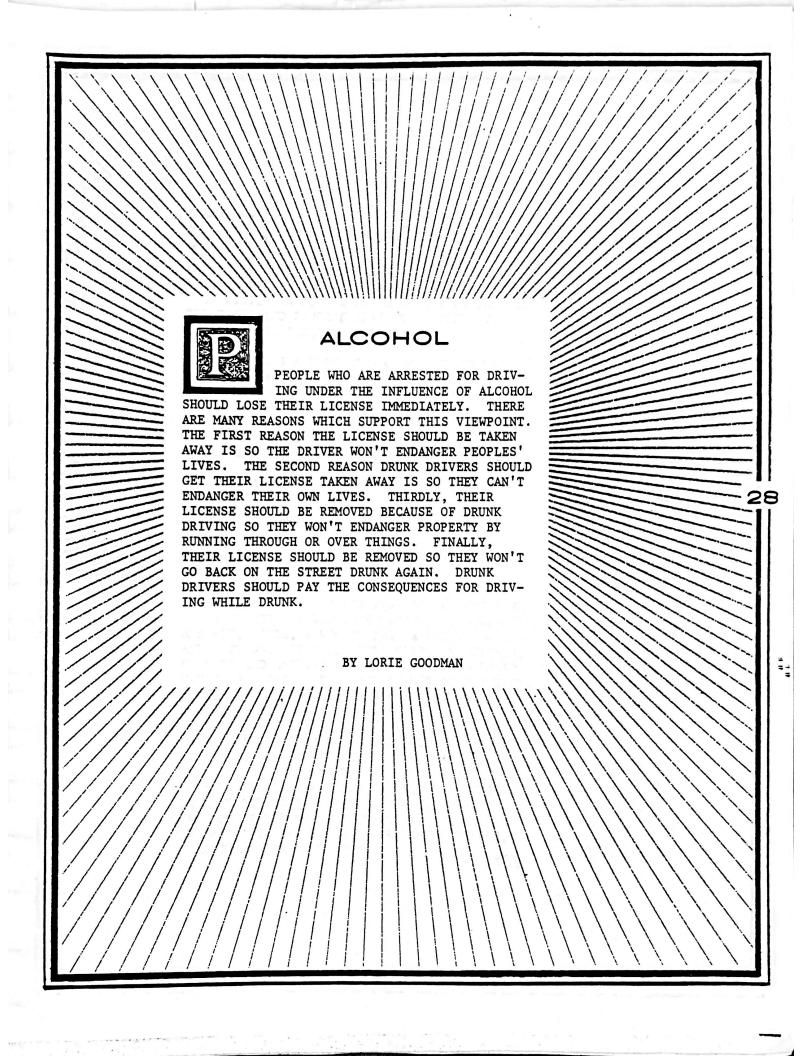


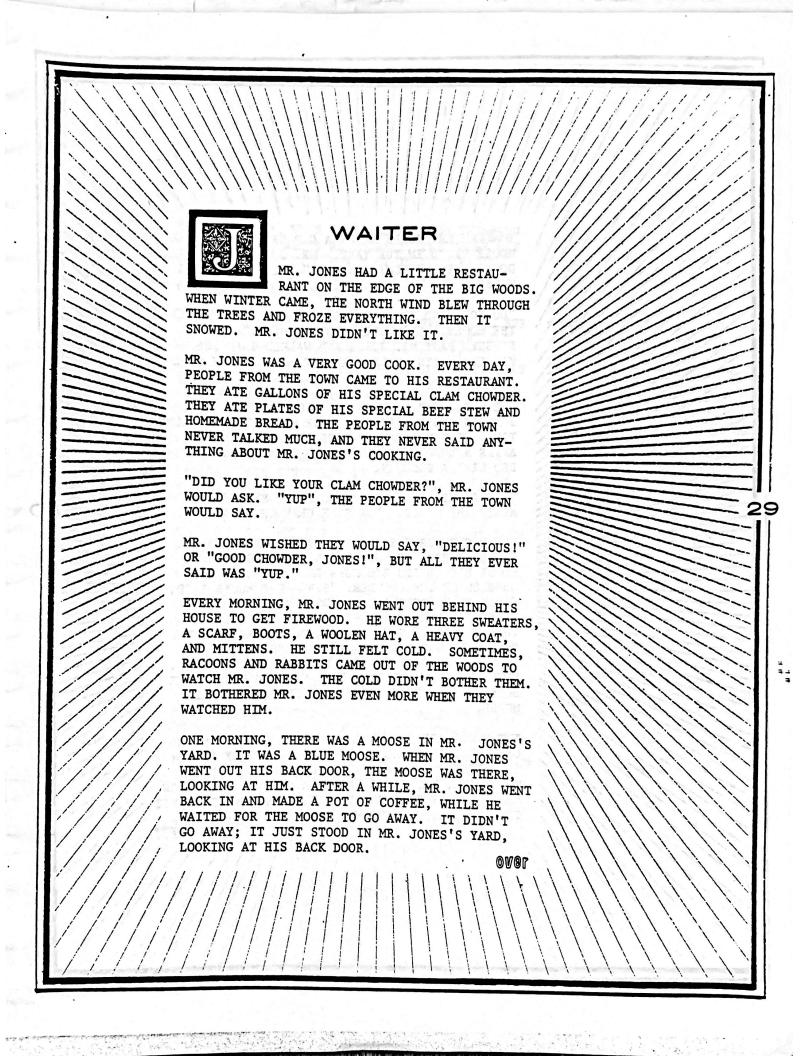


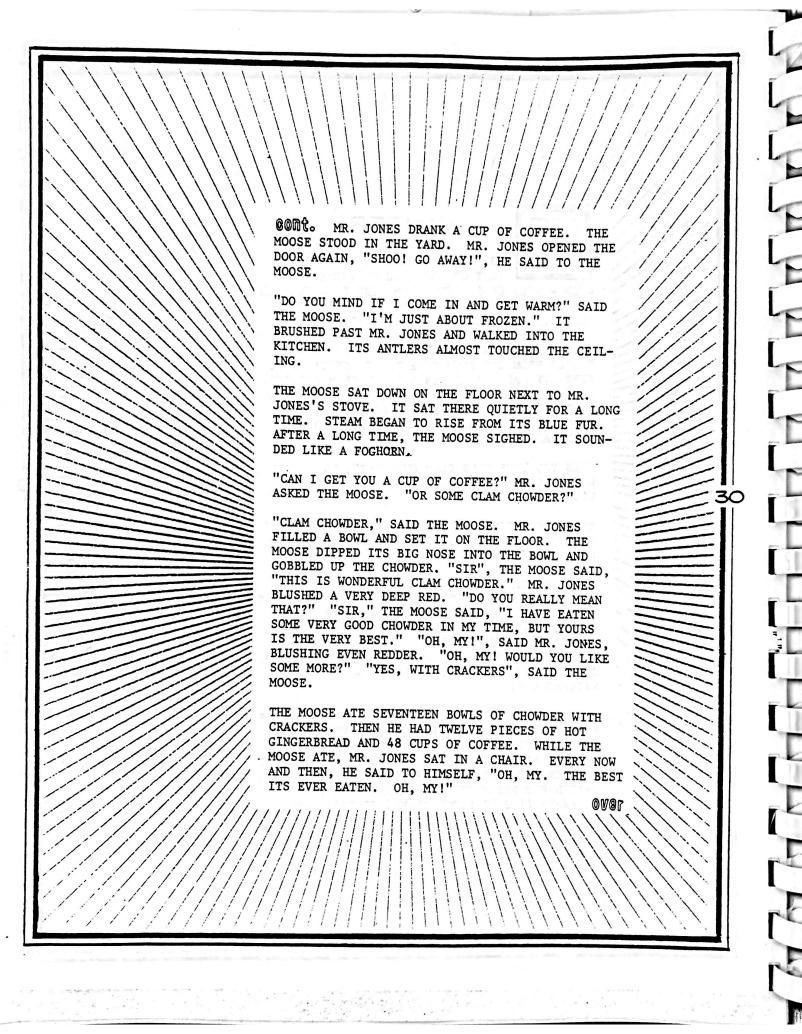




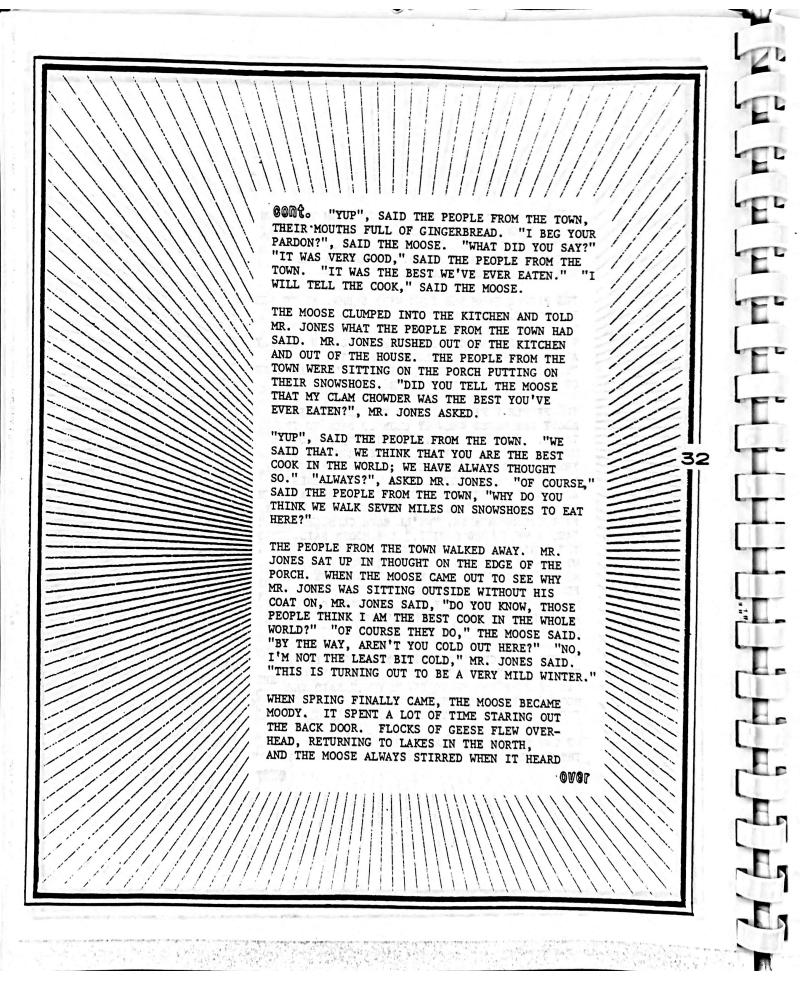








CONT. LATER, WHEN SOME PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN CAME TO MR. JONES'S RESTAURANT, THE MOOSE MET THEM AT THE DOOR. "HOW MANY IN YOUR PARTY, PLEASE?, THE MOOSE ASKED. "I HAVE A TABLE FOR YOU; PLEASE FOLLOW ME." THE PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN WERE SURPRISED TO SEE THE MOOSE. THEY FELT LIKE RUNNING AWAY, BUT THEY WERE TOO SURPRISED. THE MOOSE LED THEM TO A TABLE, BROUGHT THEM MENUS, LOOKED CLOSELY AT EACH PERSON, AND CLUMPED INTO THE KITCHEN. "THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE OUTSIDE; I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM," THE MOOSE TOLD MR. JONES. THE PEOPLE WERE WHISPERING TO ONE ANOTHER ABOUT THE MOOSE WHEN IT CLUMPED BACK TO THE "ARE YOU READY TO ORDER?", ASKED THE "YUP", SAID THE PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN. THEY WAITED FOR THE MOOSE TO ASK THEM IF THEY WOULD LIKE SOME CHOWDER THE WAY MR. JONES ALWAYS DID. BUT THE MOOSE JUST STARED AT THEM AS THOUGH THEY WERE VERY FOOLISH. THE PEOPLE FELT UNCOMFORTABLE; "WE'LL HAVE CLAM CHOWDER." "AH, A VERY GOOD CHOICE," THE MOOSE SAID. "DO YOU DESIRE CRACKERS OR HOMEMADE BREAD?" "WE WILL HAVE CRACKERS," SAID THE PEOPLE TO THE MOOSE. "WE WILL HAVE BREAD," SAID THE PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN. "AND FOR DESSERT," SAID THE MOOSE, "WILL YOU HAVE FRESH GINGERBREAD OR APPLE PIE?" "WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?" ASKED THE PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN. "AFTER CLAM CHOWDER, THE GINGERBREAD IS BEST." "THANK YOU," SAID THE PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN. "IT IS MY PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU," SAID THE MOOSE. HE CARRIED IN THE BOWLS OF CHOWDER FROM THE KITCHEN ON THE TIPS OF HIS ANTLERS. AT THE END OF THE MEAL, THE MOOSE CLUMPED TO THE TABLE. "HAS EVERYTHING BEEN SATISFACTORY?" 01/8/7



THEIR HONKING. "SIR," SAID THE MOOSE ONE MORNING, "I WILL BE GOING TOMORROW. I WONDER IF YOU WOULD PACK SOME GINGERBREAD FOR ME TO TAKE ALONG." THE NEXT MORNING, MR. JONES BAKED A SPECIAL BATCH OF GINGERBREAD, WRAPPED IT UP IN PACK-AGES, AND TIED THE PACKAGES WITH STRING, SO THE MOOSE COULD HANG THEM FROM ITS ANTLERS. WHEN THE MOOSE CAME DOWNSTAIRS, MR. JONES WAS SITTING IN THE KITCHEN DRINKING COFFEE. THE PACKAGES OF GINGERBREAD WERE ON THE KIT-CHEN TABLE. "SO, YOU WANT A BOWL OF COFFEE BEFORE YOU GO?", MR. JONES ASKED. "THANK YOU," SAID THE MOOSE. "YOU ARE THE BEST FRIEND I HAVE," SAID MR. JONES. "THANK YOU," SAID THE MOOSE. "SO YOU SUPPOSE YOU'LL EVER COME BACK?", ASKED MR. JONES. "NOT BEFORE THURSDAY OR FRIDAY," SAID THE MOOSE. "IT WOULD BE IMPOLITE TO VISIT MY UNCLE FOR LESS THAN A WEEK." THE MOOSE HOOKED ITS ANTLERS INTO THE LOOPS OF STRING ON THE PACKAGES OF GINGERBREAD. "MY UNCLE WILL LIKE THIS." IT STOOD UP AND TURNED TOWARD THE DOOR. "WAIT!", MR. JONES SHOUTED. "SO YOU MEAN THAT YOU ARE NOT LEAVING FOREVER? I THOUGHT YOU WERE LONELY FOR THE LIFE OF A WILD MOOSE. I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO GO BACK TO THE WILD, FREE PLACES." "SIR, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW COLD IT GETS IN THE WILD, FREE PLACES?", THE MOOSE SAID. "AND THE FOOD! TERRIBLE." "HAVE A NICE TIME AT YOUR UNCLE'S," SAID MR. JONES. "I'LL SEND YOU A POSTCARD," SAID THE MOOSE. BY JAMES LAMENDOLA



DOG

MY FAMILY AND I HAPPEN TO BE ONE OF THE LUCKY FAMILIES IN THE WORLD. WE HAVE THE GREAT DISTINCTION OF OWNING AN OLD ENGLISH SHEEP DOG. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD INFORM YOU, IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH ONE OF THESE LOVELY ANIMALS, THAT THEY ARE UNBELIEVABLY MESSY; YET, THEY ARE EXTREMELY LOVING AND COURAGEOUSLY PROTECTIVE.

AN OLD ENGLISH SHEEP DOG REQUIRES BRUSHING AT LEAST TWICE A DAY. ONCE IN THE MORNING, BE-CAUSE HIS FUR TANGLED WHILE HE SLEPT, AND ONCE IN THE EVENING BECAUSE YOU DARED TO LET THIS HUNDRED-POUND DOG OUT TO ROMP THROUGH YOUR GARDEN. WHEN YOU SEE PICTURES OF THESE BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS WITH THEIR LONG, SILKY HAIR, THEY FAIL TO MENTION THAT THIS DOG LIVES IN AN APARTMENT, IS BRUSHED FOUR TIMES A DAY, AND ONLY GOES OUT ON A LEASH, ON THE PAVEMENT, WHEN THE WIND ISN'T BLOWING. IF I MISS BRUSHING MY DOG JUST ONCE, THE BRUSH AND COMB ARE NEVER AGAIN ABLE TO PENETRATE THAT LONG SILKY FUR. WHICH IS REALLY BARBED WIRE WRAPPED AROUND A POOR SAD ANIMAL. EVERY TIME MY DOG VENTURES OUT OF THE HOUSE, HE GETS COVERED WITH BURRS WHICH MAT DOWN IN HIS FUR AND ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET OUT. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, I HAVE HAD TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP WITH THE GROOMING OF THIS ANIMAL. FIRST, THESE PROFESSIONALS' CHARGE OUTRAGEOUS FEES FOR THEIR EXPERTISE IN DOG GROOMING. SECONDLY, THEY MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A NEGLIGENT CRIMINAL, SINCE YOUR DOG, BY THEIR STANDARDS, IS RUINED. THESE GROOMERS HAVE IT THAT YOU FIND YOURSELF FABRICATING SOME OUTRAGEOUS TALE OF RESCUING YOUR DOG FROM THE TANGLING BUSH THAT SO SAVAGELY ATTACKED HIM.

AN OLD ENGLISH SHEEP DOG IS A VERY LOVING AND PROTECTIVE ANIMAL. MY DOG, DUNKIN, AFTER

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